

COMING SOON

Upscale Eco-Resort Slated for Isla di Oro

Tucked away along Aruba's southwestern coast at the southern end of the town of Pos Chikito is a 230,000-square-meter mangrove forest that hugs a large crystalline lagoon protected from the sea by a small barrier island and reef. Known as Isla di Oro, the area has been designated by visionary developer Dell Real State as the site of its new upscale eco-resort, Zoetry Isla di Oro Aruba.

Isla di Oro is truly a diamond in the rough. The site has not been in use since 1995, and since then, it has only deteriorated. The area is infested with mosquitoes, and over the years, oil and tires have been dumped among the mangroves and burnt to try to control the infestation. Isla di Oro has also been used as a point of entry to smuggle contraband into the country. With the development of the area, however, the developer intends to counteract these problems and bring new life to Isla di Oro in a way that is entirely respectful and friendly to the resident flora and fauna.

To assist in the planning of this endeavor, the developer has brought in two different groups of environmental consultants, one from the States and one from Jamaica. These experts have made environmental impact assessments of the site, confirming the feasibility of the project and pinpointing the sustainable practices that must be implemented in order to preserve the endangered mangroves and coral reef. The developer has plans to go even beyond preservation by building a coral nursery and by implementing a water

circulation system to bring back to life some of the mangroves that are dying due to lack of water.

By adopting the sustainable practices defined by the environmental groups, the resort will earn LEED certification. In fact, when complete, the resort will be Aruba's first true eco-resort and the Caribbean's first LEED-certified resort. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is the toughest sustainability certification to reach, and to date no other hotel in Aruba has obtained it. Adhering strictly to the Green Building Rating System™, the developer will focus on maintaining the site's sustainability by introducing water and energy efficiency, making good choices in design in terms of the environmental impact of materials and resources used, and instituting indoor and outdoor best environmental practices.

While reaching new heights in sustainability in the Caribbean, Zoetry Isla di Oro Aruba will also reach new heights in luxury. It will be one of the only resorts in the Caribbean offering over-water suites like those typically found in exotic locations such as Bora Bora and French Polynesia. A wooden bridge will connect the mainland to the island, extending through the mangroves and lagoon. A total of 63 bungalows will be sprawled out over the lagoon, and the island itself will be an oasis, featuring an ultra-luxurious health and wellness spa, restaurant, lounge bar, swimming pool, wooden terrace, pier, and beaches.

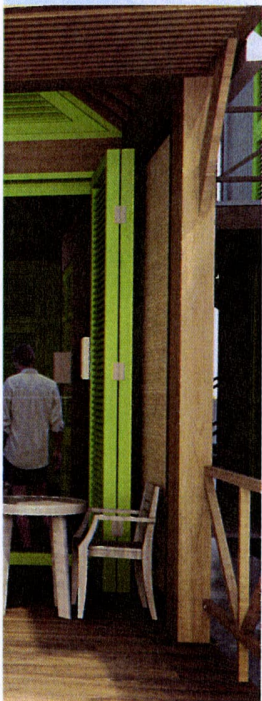
As a spa hotel, Zoetry Isla di Oro Aruba will celebrate the art of living

through experiences of wellness. In addition to unparalleled spa experiences, the resort will also offer walks through the mangroves, exploration of the area's reefs, canoing, birdwatching from a dedicated tower, and other ocean- and beach-related activities, with the exclusion of motorized watersports. Aesthetically, the resort will adopt a comfortably relaxed style featuring warm natural tones, breezy whites, cool aqua, and unexpected splashes of coral, all set against the beautiful backdrop of nature.

The partners of the development firm, two of whom reside with their families in Aruba, are very much invested in the local community. Plans for the development of the resort include plans for the betterment of life in the surrounding area. The Savaneta/Pos Chikito community has already voiced great support for the project that will take place in their own backyard. These residents will be given priority in hiring for the resort, and the developer has pledged to improve a sports field in Pos Chikito as well as add a computer room to a Pos Chikito school. The resort will even lend a hand in Aruba's Green Corridor road beautification project by covering exposed water pipes to create a bike path. Furthermore, the resort will make itself open to the entire island community for its enjoyment, and educational tours will be given to the local community to teach the importance of the mangroves to Aruba's ecosystem.

For more information about this exciting new project, visit www.zoetryresorts.com/aruba. 

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